

### **John Hardy Flanagan III**

By himself

John Hardy Flanagan, III is obviously the third in a line of John Hardys. His grandfather was the son of Archibald H. Flanagan and his father was John Hardy, Jr. His grandfather was married to Bathsheba "Sheba" Smith and together they had 12 children, his grandfather being the third child. His father married Annie Louise Tyson, the sister of Elbert Tyson who married his grandfather's sister, Ruberta. That made for several double first cousins, a Flanagan/Smith phenomenon in several instances.

John's father was a family favorite as all of his siblings were but unfortunately died at the relatively early age of 35. He and Annie had three daughters and John, the only son. One daughter, Ruby died in infancy. Following his father's death, John, III helped his mother with the family farm located near Ballard's Cross Roads. It was also near his Uncle Elbert's farm. It was a tobacco farm and had a large house known as the "Big House" for obvious reasons.

Things began to get exciting when Geraldine Worrell, as a student at Flora McDonald College, Red Springs, NC, came to Ballards Presbyterian Church to assist a local rural church with vacation bible school. John, III was asked to help entertain the visitor while she was helping their church. As John said he accepted the "call." He must have put his heart and soul into it because two years later he and Geraldine were married.

They lived in the Big House with John's mother until the first baby, Laura, was born and then they moved into a remodeled house on the farm. Geraldine had never lived on a farm but she became an excellent farmer's wife. They had two more children, Annette and Hardy (John H. Flanagan, IV.) In 1963 John was hired by a fertilizer company and they continued to live on the farm until they moved to Virginia Beach in January, 1970.

Geraldine died December 23, 1982. John continued to live in Virginia Beach until July 2001 when he moved to a retirement community in Greenville, NC where he currently resides. Laura lives in Houston, TX and Annette lives in Germantown, TN. Hardy had lived in Florida but moved back to NC and restored the "Big House" where he now lives. John never thought one of his children would remodel the house but is very happy that Hardy and his wife Debbie chose to return to the home place.